



Sheila Dixon

Mayor,
Baltimore

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Mayor Dixon Launches YouthWorks 2008 Summer Jobs Campaign

Baltimore, MD (January 14, 2008) – Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by Congressman John Sarbanes to officially launch the YouthWorks 2008 summer jobs campaign. They encouraged Baltimore City business and community leaders to help meet the goal of placing 20% more teens in summer jobs this summer than in 2007.

“In my inaugural address, I made summer employment for Baltimore’s youth a priority,” said Mayor Dixon. “We have done well, but we can do more. We must do more.”

After 25 years of support, the federal government stopped providing stand-alone funding for summer jobs in 2000. As a result, local government has worked with the community to help fill the void, and Mayor Dixon wants to increase that effort this summer.

The YouthWorks 2008 theme, *Summer Jobs are Everyone’s Business*, captures the Mayor’s outreach strategy to assemble her YouthWorks Leadership Team and engage these leaders from business, education, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, philanthropic organizations, and city agencies, to rally around this important cause and aggressively support the campaign. She asked the team to help raise funds to pay for wages of the youth workers and encourage employers to hire teens and pay their wages directly. The 20% increase in placements would result in 6,500 Baltimore City teens working in six-week summer jobs.

“I applaud Mayor Dixon for making youth summer employment a priority in her administration,” said Congressman Sarbanes. “Summer jobs not only provide income, they also lead to increased responsibility and provide tremendous tools for future careers. I look forward to working with the Mayor and others in the community on this terrific initiative.”

The YouthWorks Leadership Team expressed enthusiastic support for the Mayor’s campaign. “The Greater Baltimore Committee recognizes the importance of providing employment opportunities for Baltimore’s youth,” said team member Donald C. Fry, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Baltimore Committee. “We look forward to working aggressively with the Mayor to maximize the number of jobs available.”

Two YouthWorks participants, Brian Williams from the Academy for College and Career Exploration, and Clifford Wise from the Baltimore City Career Academy, also attended the breakfast and shared how their experiences working in the summer jobs program have helped to prepare them for the world of work.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to YouthWorks by making checks payable to:

Baltimore City Foundation/YouthWorks
c/o Mayor's Office of Employment Development
101 W. 24th Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

The six-week YouthWorks summer jobs program begins on June 23, 2008 and will end on August 1, 2008. Summer jobs registration will occur from February 1, 2008 to March 28, 2008. For more information, call 410-396-JOBS (5627) or visit www.oedworks.com.

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